

BRIDPORT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

RALPH STANFORD, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

L. F. A. MADDOCKS, Assoc. M.C.T., M.S.I.A.,
A.R. SAN. I.

Sanitary Inspector.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1935.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural District of Bridport for the year 1935.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Acreage (1931 Census) 32,150 Population 6947.

THE BIRTH RATE.

Live Births—Legitimate 56 ; 27 M., 29 F.

Illegitimate—1 F.

Total—57.

Birthrate—8·3. (1934, 8·9)

Birthrate—England and Wales, 14·7. (1934, 14·8)

Still Births—Nil.

THE DEATH RATE.

Deaths—75 ; M. 37 ; F. 38.

Deathrate—10·8. (1934, 12·6)

Deathrate—England and Wales, 11·7 (1934, 11·8)

Causes of Death—

Heart Disease—8.

Malignant—8.

Tuberculosis—2.

Senile Decay—16.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation of the school children of the district against diphtheria has been carried out as completely as possible during the past year. The method used was three injections of toxoid-antitoxin mixture at weekly intervals. Schick testing was not done, because of the extra sessions that would have been necessary, except in seven cases in which there was an indefinite history of diphtheria. Of these six gave a negative result. The one positive case was immunised with toxoid-antitoxin mixture.

The following table gives the number of children, and the percentage of the children on the school-roll immunised in each school.

Askerswell	...	7	41
Bradpole	...	35	59
Burton Bradstock	...	40	66
Charmouth	...	75	95
Litton Cheney	...	19	57
Loders	...	58	83
Puncknowle	...	39	78
Shipton Gorge	...	9	33
Stanton St. Gabriel	...	12	40
Whitchurch	...	23	50
Wootton Fitzpaine	...	33	94

Immunisation of the children in three schools which were near the epidemic focus was carried out in March, 1934. New entrants since that date were innoculated during the past year. The following table gives the number of children immunised and the percentage of the children in the schools now presumably immune.

Entrants since immunisation in March, 1934.

Chideock National	5	90
Chideock R.C.	1	80
Symondsbury	13	85

The total number of school children immunised is 379. The average percentage of the children on the school rolls now immune is 68. These figures may be considered very satisfactory in view of the fact that submission to inoculation is entirely voluntary and depends on the goodwill of parents and children, and in view of the fact that many children whose parents had accepted the offer of immunisation were unable to attend school to receive the injections owing to several out-breaks of infectious disease during the year.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Number of Persons on Register at end of 1935	...	...	...	253
„ Dairy Farms and other Premises on Register at end of 1935	...	...	...	253
„ Inspections during 1935	...	...	...	63
„ Notices served	...	...	...	26

MEAT INSPECTION.

(From April 1st, to December 31st, 1935)

Number of visits to Slaughter Houses	...	98
„ Beef Carcases inspected	...	62
„ Veal „ „	...	20
„ Pork „ „	...	176
„ Mutton „ „	...	169
Total		427

Meat Condemned.

a.—Whole carcase and offal condemned. b.—Offal or part of carcase condemned.

Disease or Defect.	Beef.		Veal.		Pork.		Mutton.	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Tuberculosis	5	2			2	8		
Pericarditis						2		
Pleurisy						1		3
Decomposition		1						
Distomatosis		2						1
Cysticercus Tenuicollis								2
Echinococcus						2		
Oedema	1							
Immaturity			1					
Angioma		1						
Fevered							3	
Abscess		1						

WATER SUPPLY.

New Supplies. During the year work was carried out at Charmouth to augment the existing supply and so give Charmouth a "constant" supply during the summer months instead of an "intermittent" one, as has always been the case since Charmouth has been a health resort.

The work was carried out by direct labour, and although an extra supply of 15,000 gallons a day was obtained the whole job cost under £350. A Chlorination plant was put in the system to ensure a pure supply. Also the water main in Lower Sea Lane was relaid to its correct depth and hydraulically tested.

At Fishponds a small scheme has been constructed to give a piped supply to the houses in Fishpond Bottoms.

16 Water Samples were taken during the year.

Proposed Supplies. During 1936 it is proposed to lay on a piped supply to Puncknowle village.

This village has a supply capable of delivering in the main street 20,000 gallons a day with a head of 120ft., and if the work was paid for as a special expense on the parish it would only be a 6d. rate.

The decision of the Parish is being awaited on this scheme.

During 1936 the water main and all house connections from Grange Mead to Charmouth Bridge are to be relaid. This main length is approximately 1000 yds. long and a loan has had to be taken up to pay for it, the estimated cost has been kept down by allowing for direct labour.

Both for the new supplies and proposed areas, no outside engineer has been brought in, thus saving high fees.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year the main sewer at Charmouth has been damaged by the road works of the County Council, and this is necessitating its renewal.

Three other main sewers have been constructed in Charmouth which, with the projected work for 1936, should place the sewerage question in Charmouth on a more satisfactory footing.

All new drainage work in the district is hydraulically tested.

HOUSING.

The Housing conditions in the district taken in the whole area, are fair. It can be readily understood that it is economically impossible for private owners to expend much on housing repairs due to the small rents levied from agricultural and other workers, and it is surprising that more owners do not take advantage of the grants offered in the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, which has been extended for a further period by the Housing Act, 1935.

The overcrowding survey which is being carried out at present has only revealed 4 cases of overcrowding in the half of the district which has been visited. This of course does not show the real state of affairs as regards overcrowding, because living rooms are reckoned as bedrooms under the Housing Act, 1935, under which the survey is being carried out.

During the year a group of 8 houses were visited by a housing committee and it was decided to declare it a clearance area. Action has however been held over until after the completion of the Housing Survey so that this area could be included in whatever scheme is decided on for dealing with houses overcrowded under the Housing Act 1935.

A good amount of building is taken place in the district which necessitated 398 visits to property in course of erection to see that the houses etc., were erected in accordance with the Bye-laws.

Total number of new houses erected during the year 42

HOUSES.

Erected with State assistance.

By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
By private persons (Necessitating 398 visits as Building Surveyor)	...						42

Inspection.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	96
Number unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	68

Remedied by Informal Action.

Number of houses rendered fit after informal notices	68
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Statutory Action (under various Acts.)

Number of dwelling-houses as to which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Houses owned by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	72
Approximate Number of houses in the District	...	...	...	...	...	2,500
Number of working class homes	...	...	...	...	not ascertained	

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The following is a list of samples taken during the year ended 31st December, 1935 :—

Article.	No. of Samples.	Genuine.
Cornflour ...	1	Yes
Cooked Meat ...	1	"
Condensed Milk ...	2	"
Cocoa ...	1	"
Custard Powder ...	1	"
Epsom Salts ...	1	"
Flour (Plain) ..	1	"
Gin ...	1	"
Magnesia ...	1	"
Milk ...	6	" (5) No (1)
Pickels...	1	Yes
Sago ...	1	"
Spice ...	1	"
Tinned Salmon ..	1	"
Whisky ...	1	"

Action taken in adulterated samples :—

Milk :—Vendor received a caution.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

April, 1936.

RALPH STANFORD, M.D..

Medical Officer of Health.